Inmarsat-phone Mini-M terminals are among the smallest and lightest (approximately 2.4 kg.) statellite phones ever made. The cost of the terminal is appx. Rs. 2.75 lakhs, inclusive of all taxes and duties.

(b) The call charge per minute is around Rs. 116/-

(c) Connections are given to Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of States and Government Departments with operational requirements after the technical scrutiny of their applicationsin the Dept. of Telecommunications and subsequent clearence of the case in Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing (WPC) of Ministry of Communications.

(d) In view of security implications, the use of Mini-M terminals has been restricted to the above users to begin with.

Implementation of Justice Talwar Committee Recommendations

779. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in implementing the recomendations of the Justice Talwar Committee on improving the service conditions of Extra-Department (ED) employees in the Postal Department; and

(b) if so, the gist of the recommendations made and the reasons for delay in implementing them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir, there has been no inordinate delay in the matter.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Transfer of Telephones on Fake Letters

780. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL is incurring huge loss on account of illegal transfer of telephones by officials on the basis of fake letters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, three cases of illegal transfer/shifting of telephones by officials on the basis of fake letters came to the notice of MTNL authorities. Details of the cases are given below:

1. A case of change of address for telephone No. 6511517 & 6518980 wherein MTNL Delhi incurred a loss of Rs. 54.04 lacs.

Case referred to CBI for investigation of the involvement of MTNL officers/officials.

2. Shift case of telephone No. 7462285 on the basis of fake application wherein there was no loss to MTNL.

Disciplinary action against the erring officer and the official has been recommended by CGM.

3. Shifting of telephone No. 6838487 & 6932412 on fake documents & using STD/ISD illegally, wherein a loss of Rs. 21.32 lacs to MTNL, Delhi has been incurred.

Case referred to CBI to investigate the involvement of MTNL officials.

Post Offices in Punjab

781. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Post Offices opened in Punjab during the financial year 1996-97 and till date;

(b) the total number of Post Offices opened throughout the country during the last three years;

(c) the number of proposals pending for opening of new Post offices in the State and by when these Post Offices would be Opened: and

(d) how many Post Offices have been upgraded in the State during the said financial year and how many are proposed during the next three years?